

INTRODUCTION

This planning report, for the planning boards of Surry County and the towns of Dobson, Elkin, and Pilot Mountain is an evaluation of economic trends relevant for future local planning. In the final analysis, when people have a choice of a place in which to work and live, they look for a well-organized and attractive environment where their investment in homes, schools, churches, stores, factories, and their progeny, will be protected. An environment which meets these wishes will attract people, as well as the production and exchange activities upon which the economy depends. Generally, the report is a straightforward analysis of recent economic data, with projections (not predictions) into the future based on the assumption that past and present trends will continue. Local development strategy involves enhancement of trends for growth and betterment of living standards while minimizing effects of decline and decay. What actually happens in the future is up to local citizens in their individual and collective responses to challenges ahead.

Available in this report for the first time are previously unpublished data from the 1960 U. S. Census for the townships of Surry County. In addition, privately financed cross-tabulations of income, education, occupation, and housing data for the County are included. Some other data, for the basic economic analysis of the County, were first published last year in a similar planning report for the Town of Mount Airy.